

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 L-01 INR-05

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1236

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 5222

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC

SUBJECT: MIP/LICENSING SYSTEM FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES

REF: STATE 127027

1. I MET WITH EC COMMISSIONER FINN GUNDELACH INFORMALLY
MAY 25 TO DISCUSS US COMPLAINT CONCERNING EC MINIMUM IMPORT
PRICE AND LICENSING SYTEM ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.
GUNDELACH APOLOGIZED FOR PASSAGE OF TIME BUT HE HAD BEEN
AWAY FROM BRUSSELS (PARIS, IRELAND, STRASBOURG) FOR MUCH OF
PAST THREE WEEKS. HE HAD, HOWEVER, REVIEWED FILE AND DISCUSSED
MATTER WITH COMMISSION STAFF MEMBERS. HE DID NOT SEE MUCH
DAYLIGHT BUT, ON OTHER HAND, WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS NEITHER
IN COMMISSION INTEREST NOR US INTEREST TO PROCEED TO XXIII
(2) IN GATT WITHOUT ONE LAST TRY.

2. WE DISCUSSED VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES, TAKING AS STARTING POINT
AMBASSADOR YEUTTER'S COMMENTS ADVANCED DURING EC/US CONSUL-
TATIONS APRIL 29-30. GUNDELACH POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE
FAR MORE DIFFICULT TO GET COUNCIL TO BACK UP ON REGULATIONS
ALREADY ENACTED THAN TO DEVELOP ANSWERS MORE WITHIN CONTROL
OF COMMISSION ITSELF. IN EFFECT, IN HIS JUDGMENT, CHANCES FOR
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REMOVING US IMPORT ITEMS FROM SENSITIVE LIST ARE INTRINSI-

CALLY MORE DIFFICULT THAN TRYING TO BLOCK EXTENSION OF MIPS
BEYOND TOMATO CONCENTRATES. WE ALSO DISCUSSED OTHER POSSIBILI-
TIES SUCH AS ASSURANCE THAT GATT ARTICLE XXIX WOULD BE FOLLOWED
IN CASE SAFEGUARD ACTIONS WERE TO BE TAKEN UNDER MIP SYSTEM.

3. GUNDELACH EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WITHIN COMMISSION ISSUE HAD
NOT BEEN WELL ARGUED BY DG I AND HE PROPOSED PURSUE MATTER
PERSONALLY WITH RABOT, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE, AND
WITH KEY MINISTERS ON FRINGES OF COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED
FOR MAY 31-JUNE 3. HE SAID HE COULD PROMISE NOTHING EXCEPT
ONE LAST EFFORT AT THIS LEVEL.

4. I SAID WE INTENDED TO PUT CASE BEFORE GATT COUNCIL MEETING
ON JUNE 14 AND TIME WAS RUNNING OUT FOR NOTIFICATION. THUS,
I COULD NOT PROMISE THAT WE COULD WAIT LONGER BUT I WOULD
RECOMMEND, AND I SO RECOMMEND, THAT WE WAIT TO LAST MINUTE
TO INFORM COUNCIL. GUNDELACH SAYS HE WILL BE BACK TO ME AT THE
LATEST LATE TUESDAY, JUNE 1. HINTON

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